

taxes paid in that they will get through their retirement years from Social Security. 1.7 percent is what the economist predict you are going to get in your retirement years. We can do better than that in a CD at your local bank. The problem is that government doesn't save and invest your money, it spends it.

But I think the other important consideration is that the Supreme Court has said that there is no obligation of the Federal Government to give you Social Security benefits. The Social Security tax is a separate tax. Benefits is a decision made by Congress and the President. That is why when we have gotten in trouble in several times, such as in 1977, again in 1983, we increased taxes and cut benefits. Let us not let that happen again.

The highlights of my bi-partisan Social Security bill, H.R. 3206, are as follows:

- Allows workers to own and invest a portion of their Social Security taxes by creating Personal Retirement Savings Accounts (PRSAs);

- PRSA investment starts at 2.5% of wages and gradually increases;

- PRSA limited to a variety of safe investments;

- Uses surpluses to finance PRSAs;

- No increases in taxes or government borrowing;

- PRSA account withdrawals may begin at 59½ while the eligibility age for fixed benefits is indexed to life expectancy;

- Tax incentive for workers to invest an additional \$2,000 each year;

- Gradually slows down benefit increases for high income retirees by changing benefit indexation from wage growth to inflation;

- Divides PRSA contributions between couples to protect low income and non-working spouses;

- Widows or widowers benefit increased to 110% of standard benefit payment;

- Repeals the Social Security earnings test;

- Scored by the Social Security Administration to keep Social Security solvent; and

- Maintains a Trust Fund reserve.

□

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 8 months since my State, North Carolina, was struck by Hurricane Floyd, one of three hurricanes to hit our State in succession. And it has been more than 3 months since the House passed H.R. 3908, the emergency supplemental for this fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, we are beyond an emergency. In Eastern North Carolina we are now in a crisis. Title III of the bill includes \$2.2 billion for assistance in the wake of the hurricanes. Those disaster relief provisions are urgently needed.

States like North Carolina, hit hard by the hurricanes and flooding of last fall, critically need that support for

their recovery and rebuilding efforts. North Carolina suffered the worst devastation in its history.

The bill contains \$77.4 million in additional funds for FEMA to be used for short-term emergency housing, home buyouts and relocation assistance; \$42 million targets funds for USDA and \$25 million in funds for HUD, to be used for long-term housing needs, new rural rental housing, rental assistance grants, mutual self-help housing grants and rural housing assistance grants; \$33.3 million in funds for the SBA. The bill also contains \$25.8 million in funds for EDA, to be used for vital economic recovery needs, disaster loans, planning assistance, public works grants and capitalization of revolving loan funds.

In addition, the bill contains critical funding for agriculture, funding to help our farmers through the forgiveness of marketing loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation, supplemental funding for crop insurance, and \$77.5 million in urgently needed funding for staffing and other needs of the Farm Service Agency. The bill contains funding to assist our fishermen who suffered untold losses from the hurricanes. Funding for dredging, snagging, clearing and debris removal at navigation projects is also included. And the bill has funding to study the dike at Princeville, a town completely destroyed by the flooding.

Mr. Speaker, America is at its best when its citizens are at their worst. When government can and does help, it makes a difference in the lives of our citizens. The lives of the people of Eastern North Carolina were forever changed when Hurricanes Dennis, Floyd and Irene struck. In some instances, the damage reached 175 miles inland, away from the shore, leaving a swath of death, destruction and despair never before seen in my State. Whether their lives were unalterably changed now rests largely in the hands of Congress.

When we passed the emergency bill in the House, the bipartisan support provided to relieve the suffering experienced by the flooding in these States gave hope that the things that are common to us are far stronger than the things on which we differ.

Mr. Speaker, there remains an emergency in North Carolina. It is an emergency in every sense of the word, an unexpected predicament, a crisis, a situation that caught North Carolina and other States entirely by surprise. The destruction is enormous, the needs are great, the situation is urgent.

I urge the House and the Senate to get together and send us a conference report.

□

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

□

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

□

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You hold all in good order. Yet You give us the freedom of choice and the realm of good conscience.

Be with Your people today, especially our leaders in religion, in government, and in all civil service.

Help us to maintain good conduct in ourselves and in this Nation. Provide us with insight into our own behavior.

Guided by Your Spirit, make us accountable for our deeds before Your eternal tribunal and in the public forum of respectful performance.

May this, the House of Representatives of the United States, do all in its power to maintain good conduct among its citizens.

May we, by our behavior, find credence among other nations so that they observe our good works and glorify You, our God, as our protector, now and forever.

Amen.

□

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

□

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

□

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills and concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 642. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 701 South Santa Fe Avenue in Compton, California, and known as the Compton Main Post Office, as the "Mervyn Malcolm Dymally Post Office Building".

H.R. 643. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 10301 South Compton Avenue, in Los Angeles, California, and known